

Minutes 12/10/15

Attending: Tom Busa, Rich Bowen, Steve Carluccio, Karen Dunn, Steve Steele, Elizabeth McClung, David Powell, Paul Mortenson, Victor Garofalo

Dave Powell motion to approve minutes of 12/3 as amended
Rich Bowen second

8-0-0

Model

- Rich: they reviewed the overlay, and consensus was to make no change. Concern about past liabilities. Overall, the overlay is reasonable and not excessive.
- New growth: still very much a guess. Consensus was 1.1M. No way to get a fine-tuned estimate at this point.
- Personal property is the most volatile, and harder to predict.
- Before it was business moving into town, or new method of tracking personal property. Don't get the same impact every year as you do in the initial year.
- Steve C: is there a history of their being so conservative?
- Rich: you can be liberal, and run an overlay deficit, or come in low, rather than come back to Finance Committee.
- Steve S: brought up by chair of health department. Why is new growth half of last year. Someone had said perhaps 1.5M.
- Rich: 1.0M is the lowest we can justify. Looked at 1.5M. So much had been one company moving into town, and the new arrangement, and they lost a tax case, 170K, so they ended up at 1.1M.
- Steve S.: we should go with their judgment.
- Victor: overlay is the key.
- Rich: potential liability is twice what they have in reserve
- Put the money in budget surplus.
- Victor: impact aid might be more than expected, but will wait to see what we really get. Could be 100k higher.
- Homeless: If it's permanent housing, they won't be transported back. If they move to another shelter or scattered site, they could choose to come back to Bedford and we would have to pay for transportation. This would be until they had permanent housing. If they don't use the vouchers now, they will be put at the bottom for permanent housing. Not all families have qualified for vouchers.
- Voc Ed is always unknown. Minuteman Tech numbers have dropped.
- There will be a field assessment at Shawsheen. David is not indicating many changes.

Dave Powell move to adjourn

Tom Busa Second

8-0-0

